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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/189,410	11/10/1998	MINORU KURIKI	826.1517/JDH	5479

21171 7590 02/11/2003

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EXAMINER

CALDWELL, ANDREW T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Amendment filed November 25, 2002

1. The reply filed on November 25, 2002 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): The Applicant's reply does not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because the remarks do not specifically point out how newly added claims 28-29 are patentable over the prior art of record. Nor does the reply discuss the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) of claims 16-17 on pages 8-9 of the last Office action. See 37 CFR 1.111(b). Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given a time period of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. Extensions of this time period may be granted under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

2. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire **one month (not less than 30 days)** from the mail date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will result in **ABANDONMENT** of the application (see 35 U.S.C. 133, M.P.E.P. 710.02, 710.02(b)).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Caldwell, whose telephone number is (703) 306-3036. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne, can be reached at (703) 308-7562. Additionally, the fax numbers for Group 2100 are as follows:

Official Responses:	(703) 746-7239
After Final Responses:	(703) 746-7238
Draft Responses:	(703) 746-7240

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Caldwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Andrew Caldwell
703-306-3036
February 9, 2003